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What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of gathering data from a database, comprising:
2 receiving, in a server system, objects containing image data extracted from
3 the database in response to a request received from a client system, the objects
4 corresponding to one or more layers; and
5 in the server system, combining the objects and creating a file containing a
6 representation of the image data for communication to the client system.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the object comprises receiving
2 objects extracted from an object relational database.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein creating the file comprises creating a
2 markup language file.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein creating the markup language file
2 comprises creating a Virtual Reality Markup Language file.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the objects comprises receiving
2 objects containing geospatial data.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the objects comprises receiving
2 the objects containing at least one of the following elements: points, lines, and polygons.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the objects comprises receiving
2 the objects containing at least one of the following elements: an image, points, lines, and
3 polygons.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein combining the objects comprises
2 combining two or more of the image, points, lines, and polygons.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein creating the file comprises creating a
2 Virtual Reality Markup Language file.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a request for plural
2 layers of image data, and wherein receiving the objects comprises receiving objects
3 extracted from the database for the plural layers.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein creating the file comprises creating a
2 Virtual Reality Markup Language file.

1 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising:
2 displaying image data represented by the Virtual Reality Markup Language
3 file in the client system; and
4 generating the request for plural layers of image data in response to an
5 interactive user action with respect to the displayed image data.

1 13. A system comprising:
2 an interface to a database system;
3 an interface to a client system; and
4 a controller adapted to receive a request from the client system, receive
5 objects containing geospatial data extracted from the database system in response to the
6 request, and combine the objects into a file that provides a visual representation of the
7 image data.

1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the database system comprises an object
2 relational database system.

1 15. The system of claim 13, wherein the geospatial data contains at least one
2 of an image, points, lines, and polygons.

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1 16. The system of claim 15, wherein the database system comprises a table
2 containing the image, points, lines, and polygons, the objects being extracted from
3 different columns of the table.

1 *Sub* 17. The system of claim 13, wherein the file comprises a markup language
2 *file.*

1 18. The system of claim 13, wherein the file comprises a Virtual Reality
2 Markup Language file.

1 *P1.126* 19. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions
2 that when executed cause a server system to:
3 receive a request from a client system for data in a database;
4 receive objects containing geospatial data from the database in response to
5 the request; and
6 combine the objects into a file to represent an image that is a composite of
7 the combined geospatial data.

1 *P1.126* *20* 20. The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 server system to combine the objects into a Virtual Reality Markup Language file.

1 *P1.126* *21* 21. The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 server system to receive objects containing geospatial data that include at least one of an
3 image, points, lines, and polygons.

1 *P1.126* *22* 22. The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 server system to receive objects containing the image, points, lines, and polygons from
3 different columns of a table in the database.

1 *P1.126* *23* 23. The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 server system to receive objects from an object relational database system.

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1 The article of claim 13, wherein the instructions when executed cause the
2 server system to receive objects associated with a plurality of layers of an image.

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1 The article of claim 13, wherein the request received from the client
2 system is for a first layer of the image, the instructions when executed further causing the
3 server system to receive a second request from the client system for a plurality of layers
4 of the image.

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